



NEWS FROM **JACK SCOTT**

21ST SENATE DISTRICT



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SENATOR SCOTT BILL REQUIRING SAFETY DEVICES ON SEMIAUTOMATIC FIREARMS MOVES FORWARD IN THE ASSEMBLY

SB 510 requires chamber load indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms to prevent accidental shootings

Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) announced today that the Assembly Public Safety Committee voted to pass SB 510 by a vote of 4 – 2. SB 510 addresses the large number of accidental firearm injuries and deaths by requiring semiautomatic handguns to be equipped with chamber load indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms. All handguns sold or manufactured in California after January 1, 2003 would be required to have these devices under Senator Scott's bill.

"How many times have we heard this story?," Senator Scott asked the committee. "A child was shot by a friend, while playing with a gun, who did not realize the gun was loaded. "Too many children in California are injured or killed in unintentional shootings like these," said Senator Scott. "SB 52 is a product safety bill which will help to prevent such accidents."

Research shows that 16% of the gunfire injuries in California are the result of unintentional shootings. Gun users are often unaware that a semiautomatic weapon can be fired even when its loading mechanism – the magazine - is removed or emptied.

Chamber load indicators inform gun users when there is a bullet in the chamber of a gun, similar to a device on a camera indicating how many exposures are left on a roll of film. Chamber load indicators have been proven to save lives, and are on the market now on some very inexpensive guns.

Magazine disconnect mechanisms prevent a semiautomatic weapon from being fired when its ammunition magazine is removed. Chamber load indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms can be easily and inexpensively incorporated into current gun manufacturing procedures.

SB 510 will next be heard on the Assembly Floor.

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